

Haverhill Urban District

in the



Administrative County of West Suffolk



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for

1944

To the Chairman and Members
of the
Haverhill Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I present for your consideration my Annual Report
for the year 1944.

The Report is drawn up in accordance with the
instructions contained in Circular 49/45 issued by the
Ministry of Health.

It is satisfactory to be able to record that the
general health of the population in the district has contin-
ued to be good.

ARTHUR MORGAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area of the District	2,530 acres
Rateable Value	£16,300
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£62
Rates	15½

(County Rate: 11/- U.D.C. Rate: 4/0¼. Assessment Committee ¾d. Planning Committee 1d.)

Number of inhabited houses	1,269
Estimated Population	3,684

The principal industry is the manufacture of ready made clothing, gloves, mats and textile fabrics. There are no industries or occupations that could be considered in any way likely to have a prejudicial effect either upon the health of the employees or that of the general public. The town is a centre for the surrounding villages and a market is held weekly.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

Live Births :

	Total.	Male	Female.
Legitimate	68	35	33
Illegitimate	5	1	4
Totals	73	36	37

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ...	19.8
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales) ...	17.6

Stillbirths :

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	2	—	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths ... ..	...	...	26.6

Deaths :

Deaths.	Total.	Male.	Female.
	55	22	33
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	...	14.9	
Death Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)	...	11.6	

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

(a) Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
(b) Other puerperal causes	1

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age :—

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	4	2	2
Illegitimate	1	1	—
Totals	5	3	2

Death Rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	68.4
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	58.8
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	7
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Influenza (all ages)	...	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	Nil

Table classifying deaths under age groups :—

			Total.	Male.	Female.
Under 1 year	...	...	5	3	2
1 and under 2	...	...	—	—	—
2 „ 5	...	...	—	—	—
5 „ 15	...	...	—	—	—
15 „ 25	...	...	3	1	2
25 „ 35	...	...	—	—	—
35 „ 45	...	...	—	—	—
45 „ 55	...	...	4	—	4
55 „ 65	...	...	6	2	4
65 „ 75	...	...	13	4	9
75 and over	...	...	24	12	12
Totals			55	22	33

Birth and Death Rates for the last ten years :—

	1935	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
Birth Rates ...	10.9	10.4	14.3	9.9	14.4	14.4	13.2	12.8	15.6	19.8
Death Rates ...	14.4	15.5	14.6	13.1	15.0	15.0	14.7	13.8	13.8	14.9

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

There are no alterations to record in any of the general arrangements.

Public Health Officers of the Authority :—

- (a) A whole time Medical Officer of Health who also acts for other districts.
- (b) Mr. J. H. Clarke, of Haverhill, is Surveyor, Housing Officer, and Sanitary Inspector. Mr. Clarke holds the Testamur of Municipal and County Engineers and the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Hospitals :—

A small Isolation Hospital of 10 beds is maintained by the Urban District Council. As the hospital has been used for purposes in connection with civil defence, cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are sent to the Newmarket Rural District, Cambs., Isolation Hospital at Exning near Newmarket. The charge is £2 12s. 6d. weekly plus the cost of removal by motor ambulance.

So far as general hospitals are concerned Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, and the West Suffolk General Hospital at Bury St. Edmunds are available.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply:

The Supply is obtained from a well sunk 103 feet deep into the chalk, with two headings, each 25 feet long running north and south about 9 feet above the bottom of the well and two boreholes, one 9 inch diameter at the bottom of the well to a depth of 250 feet from surface level and the other 10 $\frac{1}{8}$ inch diameter to a depth of 350 feet from surface level, through the south heading.

During the year another borehole 18 inch diameter was sunk through the north heading to a depth of 360 feet from surface level. A test pump gave a yield of 15,000 gallons per hour from a depth of 150 feet below surface level over a 48 hour test. For the last 6 hours of the test the delivery was increased to 26,500 gallons per hour which lowered the water level a further 14 feet. The test was made at a time when the rest level of the water was the lowest ever recorded.

The new bore gave an increased yield of 50% by the deep well pumps.

Pumping Machinery &c.

The water is raised by a deep well three throw pump in duplicate and one borehole pump, each capable of delivering 10,000 gallons per hour, and the power is obtained from 24 B.H.P. Crossley Crude Oil Engines in duplicate. There is a covered service reservoir with a capacity of 150,000 gallons. the top water level is 350 feet above O.D.

Number of dwelling houses connected to the mains :

(a) Within the U.D.C. area...	1243
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(b) Outside the area	33
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Length of mains	7 miles
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Number of houses not connected to mains :

(a) Within reach	1
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(b) Not within reach...	25
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The proportion of houses supplied by standpipes (all within the curtilage of the houses)	15%
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Purity of the Water:

From a Bacteriological and Chemical point of view the water is reported to be a wholesome one suitable for drinking and domestic purposes. The Analyst, however, comments upon its hardness, which he considers to be disadvantageous. The total hardness amounts to 42 parts per 100,000 (temporary 27.0, permanent 15.0).

There is no doubt whatever but that the provision of a suitable softening plant would be of benefit both to domestic and commercial consumers.

The following is a copy of analyses made by the Counties Public Health Laboratories :—

Chemical results in parts per 100,000

Appearance	...	...	...	Very faint opalescence, very slight deposit of chalk particles. Turbidity : Less than 5 parts per million, Silica scale.
Colour	...	Normal		Odour ... Nil
Reaction pH	...	...	...	Neutral 7.1 Free Carbonic Acid 3.3
Electric Conductivity at 20° C	...			820 Total Solids, dried at 180° C 55.0
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...		4.5 Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate 29.0
Hardness : Total				42.0, Temporary 27.0, Permanent 15.0
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...		0.00 Nitrogen in Nitrites Absent.
Free Ammonia	...	0.029		Ammoniacal Nitrogen ... Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	0.0000		Albuminoid Nitrogen ... Nil
Oxygen Absorbed in 4 hrs at 27°C	...			0.025
Metals	...	...	...	Iron 0.010, other metals absent

Bacteriological Results

Number of " Bacteria " growing on	1 day at	2 days at	3 days at
Agar per c.c. or ml. in	37° C.	37° C.	20° C.
	3	7	130
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present	Absent	100 c.c.
Bact. coli	Present	Absent	100 c.c.
Cl. welchii Reaction	Present	Absent	100 c.c.

This sample is reasonably clear and bright in appearance, containing only a few particles of chalk in suspension. The water contains no excess of saline and mineral matter in solution, but is very hard in character, although not to such a degree as to be unwholesome. It is of very satisfactory organic and bacterial purity, and no metals were found apart from a negligible trace of iron.

These results are consistent with a wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes, though the hardness will, of course, be disadvantageous.

Variations in height of water in the well :—

1942	{ Maximum level,	206.75ft. above O.D.		
	{ Minimum level,	199.00ft.	"	"
1943	{ Maximum level, March	... 210ft.	"	"
	{ Minimum level, December	... 197ft.	"	"
1944	{ Maximum level, December	... 197.3ft.	"	"
	{ Minimum level, October,	... 194.2ft.	"	"

The average daily consumption of water per head was 26 gallons.

Rainfall as registered by the raingauge at the Waterworks in 1944.

Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June
1.40	1.15	0.63	1.71	1.14	1.50
July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2.28	2.55	3.47	3.57	3.26	1.08

Snow or rain was recorded on 160 days. The greatest rainfall was for the 24 hours ending 9 a.m. July 3rd. when 1.48 inches was recorded. The total rainfall for the year was 23.74 inches.

Open-Air Swimming Bath :—

This was constructed in 1930, is well situated in the centre of the Town, the dimensions are 75ft. x 30ft. with a maximum depth of 7ft. 6ins. In 1938 a Filtration and Chlorination plant was installed which has worked very efficiently.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal :—

The Sewage Disposal Works are situated on the East side of the Town. The sewage gravitates to the Works through an 18 inch outfall sewer. The system is partially separate. All but a few outlying houses are within reach of the sewers.

The Disposal works consist of screening, detritus, storm water, two collecting and two settling tanks, and two percolating filters with final treatment on 6 acres of land, all underdrained ; two acres are terraced. Crops are grown on the land and bat willows on the grass margins.

The Pumping Plant consists of Crude Oil engines and centrifugal Pumps in duplicate.

The effluent discharges into a small stream which is a tributary of the River Stour.

Number of dwelling houses connected with sewers : 1211

Number of dwelling houses not connected with sewers : 58

House Scavenging :—

Collections are made weekly from about 1250 premises and the refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping in a disused brickyard.

The provision of sanitary dustbins was made compulsory in 1938.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

Number of inspections 918

Housing :—

10 acres of land have been purchased for housing and lay-out plans have been prepared and approved. The scheme includes the erection of 38 houses in the first year and 46 houses the second year.

Factories and Workshops :—

There are 16 premises classified as Factories and 27 as Workshops.

47 inspections have been made.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There is little to comment upon under this heading the incidence of the notifiable infectious diseases having continued to be low. The only cases notified were 7 of pneumonia, 1 of erysipelas, and 1 of scarlet fever. The ages of the persons notified were : Pneumonia, 60, 23, 67, 15, 6, 59, and 11. Scarlet fever, 7. Erysipelas, 60.

Apart from measles and whooping cough the only notifiable disease that has been at all prevalent in the district is scarlet fever. Measles and whooping cough were made notifiable in 1939 (October) and, prior to that date, there is no reliable statistical information relating to the prevalence of these diseases.

The total number of notifications received during the period 1935-1944 is shewn in the following table.

	1935	-36	-37	-38	-39	-40	-41	-42	-43	-44
Diphtheria ...	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Scarlet fever ...	...	11	—	—	5	1	27	5	10	1
Erysipelas ...	...	—	3	—	—	—	5	—	—	1
Puerperal pyrexia ...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Measles ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	213	—	42	—
Whooping cough ...	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	32	18	—
Pneumonia ...	...	8	4	2	1	—	13	8	6	7
Totals	21	8	2	6	3	45	258	16	65	9

Since the year 1924 the incidence of diphtheria has been very low, only 15 cases having been notified in the period 1924 to 1944. There were, however, 2 deaths attributed to this disease. This forms a marked contrast to the period 1914 - 1923, in these years there were 127 cases and 25 deaths.

Diphtheria immunisation was commenced in February 1941 and is carried out free of charge to parents of children. At the end of 1944 it was estimated that approximately 95% of children under 5 years of age and 91% of children over 5 years had been immunised.

So far as the non-notifiable diseases are concerned there is nothing of interest to record.

Bacteriological examinations :—

These are made at the Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge.

Diphtheria antitoxin is supplied free of charge to Medical Practitioners.

Tuberculosis :—

No notifications of tuberculosis have been received during the year. There was one death, a male aged 24 years, from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

ARTHUR MORGAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

